AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Multi-layered prophylactic article~~, in particular a medical glove, made from~~ comprising an elastomeric base layer including ~~, such as a synthetic or natural latex for example, with~~ an internal and an external surface, at least a part region of the internal surface ~~being provided with~~ including an anti-friction layer ~~made from~~ composed of a polymeric material with an internal surface and an external surface facing the internal surface of the base layer, wherein at least a part region on the internal surface of the base layer is positioned at at least one of, ~~and/or~~ between the base layer and the anti-friction layer, ~~and/or~~ in the anti-friction layer, ~~and/or~~ or on the internal surface of the anti-friction layer, ~~is provided with~~ said anti-friction layer includes at least one active substance and/or dye inside particles~~, in particular microcapsules,~~ with a ~~maximum~~ diameter ~~selected from a range with~~ having an upper limit of 500 µm~~, in particular 400 µm, preferably 300 µm~~ and a lower limit of 10 µm, ~~preferably 30 µm, in particular 40 µm, and/or~~ or a layer incorporating the at least one active substance and/or dye is disposed in at least a part region between the base layer and the anti-friction layer, ~~which~~ said anti-friction layer ~~has~~ including regularly recurring raised areas or recesses of an irregular shape, produced by rapidly removing liquid from the anti-friction layer, in which a proportion of the recesses selected from a range with a lower limit of 20 %~~, in particular 35 %, preferably 40 %,~~ and an upper limit of 95 %~~, in particular~~

~~80 % preferably 75 %~~, by reference to the total number of recesses, said recesses extending ~~extends~~ through the entire thickness of the anti-friction layer.

2. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diameter of the particles ~~is selected from a range with~~ has an upper limit of 250 µm~~, preferably 200 µm, in particular 150 µm,~~ and a lower limit of 50 µm~~, preferably 80 µm, in particular 100 µm~~.

3. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diameter of the particles is at least 80 %~~, preferably at least 85%, in particular at least 90%,~~ of the thickness of the anti-friction layer.

4. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 3, wherein the diameter of the particles is the same size as the thickness of the anti-friction layer.

5. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 3, wherein the diameter of the particles is bigger than the thickness of the anti-friction layer.

6. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the part region encompasses the region of at least one of, the distal forearm, ~~and/or~~ the carpal bones, ~~and/or~~ the metacarpals, and ~~and/or~~ the base, middle and terminal phalanges of the fingers.

7. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particles and/or the layer is applied to both the palm side and dorsal side in at least one part region.

8. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

part region extends across a region of the internal surface of the base layer and/or between the base layer and the anti-friction layer and/or in the anti-friction layer and/or on the internal surface of the anti-friction layer in a range with a lower limit of 40 %~~, preferably 50 %, in particular 60 %~~, and an upper limit of 100 %~~, preferably 80 %, in particular 70%~~.

9. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particles and/or the layer is a different ~~colour~~ color from the base layer and anti-friction layer.

10. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particles are water-insoluble.

11. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particles are water-soluble.

12. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active substance has at least one of an antibacterial~~, or~~ antiviral~~, or~~ germicidal~~, or~~ spermicidal or protective action.

13. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 12, wherein the active substance is selected from a group consisting of chlorohexidin, ~~e.g. a gluconate,~~ an acetate, a hydrochloride, nonoxinol 9 and aloe vera.

14. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active substance is selected from a group consisting of vitamins~~,~~ and plant extracts~~, in particular secondary plant extracts~~.

15. (Original) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 14, wherein vitamins are selected from a group consisting of compounds with a retinoid structure (vitamin A), vitamin B-complex, ascorbic acid (vitamin C), calciferols (vitamin D), tocopherols (vitamin E), vitamin K, flavonoids and biotin.

16. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 12, wherein the concentration of the at least one active substance and/or dye in the particles ~~is selected from~~ has a range with a lower limit of 1 %~~, preferably 2 %, in particular 5 %,~~ and an upper limit of 20 %~~, preferably 15 %, in particular 10 %~~.

17. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein a shell of the particles is pressure-sensitive.

18. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particles form the anti-friction layer in at least a part-region.

19. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein a thickness of the anti-friction layer is ~~selected from~~ has a range with a lower limit of 30 µm~~, preferably 40 µm, in particular 50 µm,~~ and an upper limit of 500 µm~~, preferably 400 µm, in particular 300 µm~~.

20. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 19, wherein the thickness of the anti-friction layer is ~~selected from~~ has a range with a lower limit of 55 µm~~, preferably 60 µm, in particular 75 µm,~~ and an upper limit of 200 µm~~, preferably 150 µm, in particular 110 µm~~.

21. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

recesses have a maximum diameter, as seen in plan view, ~~selected from~~ in a range with an upper limit of 30 µm, ~~preferably 25 µm, in particular 20 µm,~~ and a lower limit of 1 µm~~, preferably 5 µm, in particular 10 µm~~.

22. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recesses are crater-shaped and taper in the direction towards the base layer.

23. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 22, wherein walls of the crater-shaped recesses subtend an angle with the line perpendicular to the anti-friction layer ~~selected from~~ has a range with a lower limit of 30 °~~, in particular 42 °, preferably 47 °,~~ and an upper limit of 80 °~~, in particular 75 °, preferably 60 °~~.

24. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein a quantity of the active substance and/or dye is selected so that the active substance and/or dye is preferably released in at least substantially uniform doses throughout the entire time the prophylactic article is being worn.

25. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active substance and/or dye has a solubility in water at 20 °C ~~which is selected from a range~~ with a lower limit of 1 g/l~~, preferably 3 g/l, in particular 4,5 g/l,~~ and an upper limit of 20 g/l~~, preferably 15 g/l, in particular 8 g/l~~.

26. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein a solution of the active substance ~~and./or~~ and/or dye in the particles has a pH value selected from a range of 5.5 to 7.5.

27. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

raised areas are arranged in an at least predominantly network-type arrangement with inter-connecting webs.

28. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 27, wherein a height of at least a part of the webs ~~has a value in the range of~~ is between 25 % and 100 ~~%, preferably 33 % and 75 %, in particular 40 % and 60 %,~~ of the total thickness of the anti-friction layer.

29. (Currently Amended) Method of producing a multi-layered prophylactic article~~, in particular a medical glove,~~ comprising: providing ~~in which~~ at least a base layer ~~is made from~~ composed of an elastomeric material~~, preferably synthetic or natural rubber, which has~~ including an internal surface and an external surface, the internal surface of the base layer ~~having~~ including an anti-friction layer composed of a polymeric material with an internal surface and an external surface facing the internal surface of the base layer, wherein at least one active substance and/or dye inside particles is applied to at least one of the internal surface of the base layer~~, and/or~~ between the base layer and the anti-friction layer~~, and/or~~ in the anti-friction layer~~, and/or~~ on the external surface of the anti-friction layer, or in the at least one part-region between the base layer and the anti-friction layer~~, the~~ said particles ~~used having a maximum~~ having a diameter ~~selected from a range~~ with an upper limit of 500 µm~~, in particular 400 µm, preferably 300 µm~~ and a lower limit of 10 µm~~, preferably 30 µm, in particular 40 µm, and /or a layer incorporating at least one active substance and/or dye is applied in the at least one part-region between the base layer and the anti-friction layer, in particular by dipping or spraying, which~~ said anti-

friction layer ~~has~~ having regularly recurring raised areas or recesses of an irregular shape produced by rapidly removing liquid from the anti-friction layer, and a proportion of the recesses ~~selected from~~ having a range with a lower limit of 20 %~~, in particular 35 %, preferably 40 %,~~ and an upper limit of 95 %~~, in particular 80 %, preferably 75 %,~~ by reference to the total number of recesses, said recesses extending ~~extends~~ through the entire thickness of the anti-friction layer.

30. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein ~~that~~ the applied particles have a diameter ~~selected from a range~~ with an upper limit of 250 µm~~, preferably 200 µm, in particular 150 µm,~~ and a lower limit of 50 µm~~, preferably 80 µm, in particular 100 µm~~.

31. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the particles and/or layer is or are applied in the form of a heterogeneous mixture~~, in particular a suspension or dispersion~~.

32. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 31, wherein at least a part-region of the anti-friction layer is formed by the heterogeneous mixture.

33. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein a concentration of particles in the heterogeneous mixture ~~used is selected from a range with~~ has a lower limit of 1 %~~, in particular 2 %, preferably 5 %,~~ and an upper limit of 50 %~~, preferably 40 %, in particular 30 %~~.

34. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the concentration of the particles in the heterogeneous mixture ~~is selected from a range with~~

has a lower limit of 6 %~~, preferably 7 %, in particular 10 %~~ and an upper limit of 25 %~~, preferably 20 %, in particular 15 %~~.

35. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the liquid is removed within a period with a lower limit of 10 seconds~~, in particular 25 s, preferably 50 s,~~ and an upper limit of 20 min~~, in particular 15 min, preferably 10 min~~.

36. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the liquid is removed at a temperature ~~selected form~~ from a range with a lower limit of 60 °C~~, in particular 66 °C, preferably 70 °C,~~ and an upper limit of 150 °C~~, in particular 125 °C, preferably 110 °C~~.

37. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein particles with a water-soluble shell are used.

38. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein particles with a water-insoluble shell are used.

39. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the active substance is a substance with an antibacterial or antiviral or germicidal or spermicidal or protective action.

40. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the active substance is selected from a group consisting of chlorohexidin, ~~e.g. a gluconate,~~ an acetate, a hydrochloride, nonoxinol 9 and aloe vera.

41. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the substance is selected from a group consisting of vitamins, plant extracts, in particular secondary

plant extracts.

42. (Original) Method as claimed in claim 41, wherein the vitamins are selected from a group consisting of compounds with a retinoid structure (vitamin A), vitamin B-complex, ascorbic acid (vitamin C), calciferols (vitamin D), tocopherols (vitamin E), vitamin K, flavonoids and biotin.

43. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the at least one active substance and/or dye is contained in the particles in a concentration ~~selected from a range~~ with a lower limit of 1%~~, preferably 2 %, in particular 5 %,~~ and an upper limit of 20 ~~%, preferably 15 %, in particular 10 %~~.

44. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the particles are applied in at least one part-region in the anti-friction layer.

45. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the material used for the anti-friction layer is applied until the latter has a thickness ~~selected from a range~~ with a lower limit of 30 µm~~, preferably 40 µm, in particular 50 µm,~~ and an upper limit of 500 µm~~, preferably 400 µm, in particular 300 µm~~.

46. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 45, wherein the thickness of the anti-friction layer ~~is selected from a range with~~ has a lower limit of 55 µm~~, preferably 60 µm, in particular 75 µm,~~ and an upper limit of 200 µm~~, preferably 150 µm, in particular 110 µm~~.

47. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the time during which the liquid is removed is selected so that the recesses produced have a maximum

diameter, as seen in plan view, ~~selected from a range~~ with an upper limit of 30 µm, ~~preferably 25 µm, in particular 20 µm,~~ and a lower limit of 1 µm~~, preferably 5 µm, in particular 10 µm~~.

48. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the time during which the liquid is removed is selected so that crater-shaped recesses are formed which taper in the direction towards the base layer.

49. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein an active substance and/or a dye has a solubility in water at 20 °C ~~selected from a range~~ with a lower limit of 1 g/l~~, preferably 3 g/l, in particular 4,5 g/l,~~ and an upper limit of 20 g/l~~,~~ ~~preferably 15 g/l, in particular 8 g/l~~.

50. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein a solution of the active substance and/or dye in the particle is adjusted and/or displaced with a buffer so that it has and maintains a pH value selected from a range of 5.5 to 7.5.

51. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the raised areas form an at least substantially network-type pattern with inter-connecting webs.

52. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim 51, wherein the at least a part of the webs are formed with a height ~~having a value in the range of~~ between 25 % and 100 % ~~preferably 33 % and 75 %, in particular 40 % and 60 %,~~ of the total thickness of the anti-friction layer.

53. (New) Multi-layered prophylactic medical glove comprising an elastomeric base layer including an internal and an external surface, at least a part region of the

internal surface including an anti-friction layer composed of a polymeric material with an internal surface and an external surface facing the internal surface of the base layer, wherein at least a part region on the internal surface of the base layer is positioned at at least one of, between the base layer and the anti-friction layer, in the anti-friction layer, or on the internal surface of the anti-friction layer, said anti-friction layer includes at least one active substance and/or dye inside particles with a diameter having an upper limit of 500 µm-and a lower limit of 10 µm, or a layer incorporating the at least one active substance and/or dye is disposed in at least a part region between the base layer and the anti-friction layer, said anti-friction layer including regularly recurring raised areas or recesses of an irregular shape, produced by rapidly removing liquid from the anti-friction layer, in which a proportion of the recesses selected from a range with a lower limit of 20 % and an upper limit of 95 %, by reference to the total number of recesses, said recesses extending through the entire thickness of the anti-friction layer.

54. (New) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein said elastomeric base layer is made from synthetic or natural latex.

55. (New) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 14, wherein the plant extracts comprise secondary plant extracts.

56. (New) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said article is a medical glove.

57. (New) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said elastomeric base layer is made from synthetic or natural latex.

58. (New) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the layer incorporating at least

one active substance and/or dye is applied in the at least one part-region between the base layer and the anti-friction layer by dipping or spraying.

59. (New) Method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the particles and/or layer is or are applied in the form of a suspension or dispersion.